AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] Operation of an exemplary implementation of write block size adjustment will be explained with reference to Fig. 6 and Fig. 7. Fig. 6 is a flowchart illustrating operations 600 in an exemplary method for adjusting the write block size during data transfer operations between storage cells such as, e.g., a remote copy operation. Fig. 7 is a graph illustrating a relationship between data throughput across a switching fabric and the write block size in an exemplary storage network. In an exemplary embodiment, the operations of Fig. 6 may be implemented on a processor associated with storage controller such as the microprocessor 416a, 416b on NSCs 410a, 410b. In alternate embodiments the operations of Fig. 6 may be implemented on any other processor associated with the storage network, e.g., a processor in a host computer.

3   *200208208-1*

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] In an exemplary implementation, NSCs 410a, 410b further include a plurality of Fiber Channel Arbitrated Loop (FCAL) ports [[420a-426a, 420b-426b]] 420a, 422a, 424a, 426a and 420b, 422b, 424b, 426b that implement an FCAL communication connection with a plurality of storage devices, e.g., arrays of disk drives 440, 442. While the illustrated embodiment implement FCAL connections with the arrays of disk drives 440, 442, it will be understood that the communication connection with arrays of disk drives 440, 442 may be implemented using other communication protocols. For example, rather than an FCAL configuration, a FC switching fabric or a small computer serial interface (SCSI) connection may be used.

4   *200208208-1*

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] At operation 620 it is determined whether the temporary write block size is greater than the upper bound represented by parameter B, e.g., by comparing the current write block size to the upper bound. If not, then control passes back to 616 and the performance parameter is measured at the updated temporary write block size and stored in a suitable memory location, e.g, an array in memory. The write block size remains at the updated temporary write block size until the time duration represented by the parameter D elapses, whereupon the temporary write block size is incremented by the parameter C, at operation ~~718~~ 618.

5   *200208208-1*